

**REMARKS BY  
TOM JOYNER  
HOST, TOM JOYNER MORNING  
US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION  
CHAIRMAN ROBERT A. BRADY  
APRIL 9, 2008**

**THANK YOU, CHAIR PERSON BRADY AND  
COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR THE  
OPPORTUNITY TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT THIS  
VERY IMPORTANT ISSUE AFFECTING OUR  
VOTERS. IT'S AN HONOR TO BE HERE. I WAS  
HOPING TO GET A CHANCE TO COVER UP  
THE MIC AND HAVE MY LAWYER WHISPER IN  
MY EAR. OH, WELL, MAYBE NEXT TIME.  
I'M TOM JOYNER AND AS A RADIO  
BROADCASTER I DEAL DAILY WITH THEATER  
OF THE MIND. SO, I'D YOU TO JOIN ME IN  
THIS EXERCISE.**

**IMAGINE YOURSELF AS A 30-YEAR-OLD  
WORKING MOTHER OF TWO. YOU ARRANGE  
FOR YOUR MOM TO TAKE YOUR KIDS TO  
SCHOOL ON THIS DAY SO THAT YOU CAN GET  
TO YOUR POLLING PLACE WHEN IT OPENS AT  
7 A.M. YOU ANTICIPATE BEING IN LINE FOR  
45 MINUTES TO AN HOUR AND YOU HAVE TO  
BE AT WORK BY NINE. YOU'RE NOT A  
"REGULAR" VOTER . IN FACT, THIS IS YOUR  
FIRST TIME VOTING IN A PRESIDENTIAL  
PRIMARY. YOU GET TO YOUR POLLING  
PLACE AT 7:05 AND THE POLLS HAVEN'T  
OPENED. THERE ARE MORE THAN A 100  
PEOPLE IN LINE AND WHEN THE POLLS DO**

**FINALLY OPEN AT 7:30, YOU NOTICE THE LINE IS MOVING AT A SNAIL'S PACE.**

**DEPENDING ON THE STATE YOU'RE IN THE REASON FOR THE DELAY IS THAT THERE AREN'T ENOUGH MACHINES, THERE ISN'T ENOUGH MANPOWER, THERE AREN'T ENOUGH I.D. VERIFICATION MACHINES OR THEY HAVE RUN OUT OF BALLOTS.**

**YOU WANT TO WAIT IN LINE UNTIL THE PROBLEMS ARE FIXED BUT IF YOU DO, THERE'S NO WAY THAT YOU WILL MAKE IT TO WORK ON TIME.**

**MAYBE YOU'LL HAVE TIME TO VOTE AFTERWORK-- IF YOUR BOSS LET'S YOU LEAVE ON TIME AND YOUR MOM AGREES TO PICK UP THE KIDS FROM DAYCARE. BUT IF THEY DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH MACHINES AT 7:30 A.M. THEY MOST CERTAINLY WON'T HAVE ENOUGH AT 6 P.M. SO THE LINES WILL BE EVEN LONGER, AND MOVE SLOWER THAN THEY DID IN THE MORNING. SO, YOU PASS ON THIS ELECTION.**

**MY SHOW – THE TOM JOYNER MORNING SHOW – REACHES NEARLY EIGHT MILLION, MOSTLY AFRICAN AMERICAN PEOPLE EVERY WEEK. AND SINCE SO MANY AFRICAN AMERICANS DO TUNE IN TO HEAR OUR SHOW--ALONG WITH BEING CALLED THE HARDEST WORKING MAN IN RADIO, I AM SOMETIMES CALLED THE VOICE OF BLACK AMERICA.**

**WHEN CNN, CSPAN OR ANY MAJOR TV NETWORK, A PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OR A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE WANTS TO SPEAK TO –OR HEAR FROM -- AFRICAN-AMERICANS, THEY KNOW THAT I'M THE PERSON COME TO. IT'S A HUGE RESPONSIBILITY AND I TAKE IT VERY SERIOUSLY.**

**IT'S ALL A PART OF MY ON-GOING GOAL TO SUPER-SERVE MY AUDIENCE, THAT MEANS TO BE IN TOUCH WITH WHAT THEY WANT AND NEED -- AND TO PROVIDE THAT BY ENTERTAINING, EDUCATING AND EMPOWERING OUR LISTENERS.**

**THE BEST WAY TO EMPOWER OR LISTENERS IS BY REGISTERING THEM TO VOTE. THROUGH OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NAACP VOTING FUND, AS OF FRIDAY, WE HAVE REGISTERED NEARLY 21,000 PEOPLE AND RECEIVED IN TOTAL MORE THAN 45,000 PHONE CALLS TO 866-MYVOTE-1. MORE THAN 20,000 OF THOSE CALLS WERE QUESTIONS ABOUT POLL LOCATIONS. THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS.**

**THE BAD NEWS IS THAT MORE THAN 4,000 OF THE CALLERS WERE COMPLAINING ABOUT PROBLEMS THEY EXPERIENCED AT THEIR POLLING PLACES.**

**ON TUESDAY FEBRUARY 5TH, WE RECEIVED NEARLY 10,000 CALLS! THROUGHOUT MY RADIO SHOW AND THROUGHOUT THAT DAY, WE MONITORED THOSE CALLS. MANY OF THOSE CALLS CAME FROM VOTERS IN ATLANTA. AT ONE POINT DURING THE RADIO SHOW, WE WERE RECEIVING UP TO THREE CALLS A MINUTE. THEY WERE CALLING TO TELL US THAT THEY WERE HAVING PROBLEMS VOTING. THAT THE VOTER ID MACHINES WERE NOT WORKING. THAT, IN SOME CASES, THERE WEREN'T ENOUGH VOTING MACHINES. IN OTHER CASES, THEY CALLED US TO COMPLAIN ABOUT POLL WORKERS WHO DIDN'T KNOW HOW TO FIX PROBLEMS WHEN THEY WERE HAPPENING.**

**AND THAT'S WHY I'M HERE THIS MORNING. I KNOW ABOUT THE PROBLEMS. MY AUDIENCE KNOWS ABOUT THE PROBLEMS. NOW YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE PROBLEMS AND YOU NEED TO DO WHAT IT TAKES TO FIX THE PROBLEMS.**

**IF I'M CONCERNED ABOUT MAKING SURE PEOPLE REGISTER AND ACTUALLY GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT TO VOTE, YOU REALLY OUGHT TO BE CONCERNED.**

**WE AREN'T TALKING ABOUT APATHETIC PEOPLE WHO WON'T TAKE THE TIME TO VOTE. WE'RE TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO**

**HAVE REGISTERED AND HAVE SHOWED UP AT THE POLLS READY AND WILLING TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS.**

**VOTING IRREGULARITIES EITHER KEPT THEM FROM VOTING OR MADE THE PROCESS A LOT MORE DIFFICULT THAN IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN. WE'VE KEPT GOOD RECORDS OF THESE IRREGULARITIES AND ARE PASSING THEM ALONG TO YOU. MY LISTENERS ARE COUNTING ON ME TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THESE IRREGULARITIES AND I'M COUNTING ON YOU.**

**SADLY, WE DON'T KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE TURNED AWAY AND HOW MANY WILL NOT RETURN TO THE POLLS IN NOVEMBER BECAUSE OF THEIR NEGATIVE EXPERIENCE. MANY OF THEM START BELIEVING THAT THESE PROBLEMS ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP THEM FROM VOTING. THEY LOOK BACK AT THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS IN 2000 AND 2004 AND WONDER WHAT KIND OF "TRICKERY" IS GOING TO 'STEAL' THE ELECTION THIS TIME AROUND.**

**THEY CALL ME AND I HEAR THE FRUSTRATION AND THE ANGER ON MY RADIO SHOW AND ON THE 1 866 MYVOTE 1 HOTLINE.**

**SO, HERE'S WHAT I'M URGING YOU ALL TO DO BEFORE WE GET TO NOVEMBER:  
(1) GET MORE VOTING MACHINES TO THESE**

**POLLING PLACES;**

**(2) DO A BETTER JOB TO TRAIN POLL WORKERS SO THEY KNOW HOW THESE MACHINES WORK AND HOW TO FIX PROBLEMS;**

**(3) IN GEORGIA, GET MORE VOTER ID VERIFICATION MACHINES IN GEORGIA; AND,**

**(4) ESTABLISH NATIONAL VOTING STANDARDS TO AVOID SO MUCH CONFUSION IN EVERY CITY AND STATE EVERY ELECTION YEAR.**

**WE WANT PEOPLE *TO REGISTER TO VOTE*, BUT WE'RE MAKING TOO DIFFICULT FOR THEM *TO VOTE*.**

**IN KEEPING WITH THE SPIRIT OF THE ELECTION YEAR, LET ME JUST SAY I'M TOM JOYNER AND I ENDORSE THIS MESSAGE.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME.**